

Nickel Co., Ltd., in awarding annually for the next fifteen years a number of fellowships, to be known as 'Mond Nickel Fellowships'. The Company offered to make available over a number of years the sum of £50,000 to be used for awarding these fellowships. Particulars of the fellowships have now been issued. Mond Nickel Fellowships will be awarded to persons of British nationality educated to university degree or similar standard though they need not necessarily be qualified in metallurgy. There are no age limits, though awards will seldom be made to persons more than thirty-five years of age. Each fellowship will occupy one full working year; it is proposed to award up to five fellowships each year of an average value of £750. It is hoped by the aid of these fellowships to enable selected persons to pursue such training as will make them better capable of applying the results of research to the problems and processes of the British metallurgical and metal-using industries, and to increase the number of those who, if they are eventually employed in executive and administrative positions, will be competent to appreciate the technological significance of research and its results. The fellowships will be awarded to selected candidates who wish to undergo a programme of training in industrial establishments and will normally take the form of travelling fellowships; awards for training at universities may, however, be made in special circumstances. Forms of application can be obtained from the Secretary, Mond Nickel Fellowships Committee, 4 Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1. Completed application forms must reach the Secretary of the Committee not later than September 1, 1947.

New York Academy of Medicine: Section on Microbiology

THE New York Academy of Medicine has decided to form a Section on Microbiology. This new Section, which brings the number of sections of the Academy to twelve, has for its main objectives the encouragement of the exchange of information among microbiologists, and the promotion of ready contacts between clinical and laboratory investigators. The fellowship of the Section will be broad and will include not only those who have a direct interest in microbiology, but also those who deal with microbiology in their primary functions as clinicians or scientists in other branches. The officers of the newly organised Section are: *Chairman*, Dr. Gregory Shwartzman, Mount Sinai Hospital, New York; *Secretary*, Dr. Harry Most, New York University College of Medicine; *Advisory Committee*, Dr. René J. Dubos, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; Dr. Frank L. Horsfall, jun., Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; Dr. Colin M. MacLeod, New York University College of Medicine; Dr. Ralph S. Muckenfuss, Research Laboratories, New York City Health Department; and Dr. John G. Kidd, Cornell Medical College.

Invention of the Telephone

IN connexion with the centenary address on "Alexander Graham Bell and the Invention of the Telephone" given before the Royal Society of Edinburgh by Prof. G. W. O. Howe, an abridgment of which was published in *Nature* of April 5, Capt. G. C. Wilson, 375 McKay Street, Ottawa, has written maintaining that the telephone was invented at Brantford, Ontario, the Canadian home of the Bell

family, and not at Boston. In support of this a quotation is given from a letter written by Bell in 1904, saying: "Now it so happens that the telephone was invented in Brantford during my visit to my father and mother in 1874". By 'invention' he probably meant the conception of the idea, for it was in the following February that he visited Henry in Washington and explained to him his idea of an articulate telephone. Henry encouraged him to develop the idea, which he thought might be the germ of a great invention. It was on June 2, 1875, that, while experimenting with the harmonic telegraph in Boston, the slight accident occurred which gave Bell the clue to the solution of the telephone problem, and as his assistant Watson said, "the speaking telephone was born at that moment". Where the invention was made depends on what one means by 'invention'. Bell certainly carried out experiments at his parents' home at Brantford when he was not at Boston; but it is generally agreed that it was in Boston that the experimental development occurred which can be regarded as the birth of the telephone.

Statue of Eros in Piccadilly Circus, London

APART from its interest to Londoners and its inherent aesthetic merit, the statue of Eros, surmounting the Shaftesbury Memorial Fountain in Piccadilly Circus, London, has a scientific aspect. Originally unveiled in 1893, it is cast in aluminium alloy, the basal structure being of bronze. Its restoration, after a war-time exile, necessitated a thorough cleaning, the repair of a few defects, and the provision of a new bow and arrow. The work was entrusted by the London County Council to Mr. G. Friese Greene, of Messrs. Starkie Gardner, Ltd., of Southfields, craftsmen in metals, since the original makers are no longer in business. The cleaning was carried out with neutral soap and warm water, the surprising discovery being that there is no trace of corrosion arising from the past fifty years in the London atmosphere; with suitable care the original oxide film of the aluminium and the *patina* of the bronze have both been retained. The statue is actually cast in pieces, and the latter are threaded over a steel tree and swaged together, the joints being difficult to find. The hot forging and the cold hammering of the new bow and arrow showed that aluminium alloy can be a very useful metal for sculptors and is actually easier to work than stone. The experience with the restoration of Eros should give an impetus to designers to make more use of these 'modern metals'.

Museum of the History of Science, Oxford

THE Museum of the History of Science, Oxford, whose collections, during the war period, were stored in the basement, is reopening on July 2 with an exhibition of historic scientific instruments pertaining to medicine and surgery. The exhibition will include the extremely fine collection of microscopes acquired from Dr. Reginald Clay in 1944 and now for the first time publicly exhibited. The immediate occasion of the exhibition is the meeting of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland and of the International Physiological Congress, both of which will be held in Oxford in July. The exhibition will be held in the School of Natural History, the ground floor room of the Old Ashmolean Building, which has not been open to the public during the past fifty